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RICHARD W. JACKING
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NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

1 DAVID W. SHAPIRO (NYSB 2054054)
2 United States Attorney
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
9 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

10
11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
12 Plaintiff,

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17 MARK JAMES KNIGHTS,
18 Defendant.

No. CR-99-0108-MJJ

VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 371 –
Conspiracy to Damage and Disrupt
Energy Facility, Destroy Property
by Means of Fire and Explosives, and
and Steal Property of the United
States; 18 U.S.C. § 844(i) – Destruction of
of Property by Means of Fire and Explosives;
18 U.S.C. § 842(i) – Felon in Possession of
Explosives; 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) – Felon in
Possession of Ammunition; 18 U.S.C. § 1361
– Injury or Depredation to Government
Property.

19
20 SUPERSEDING INFORMATION

21 The United States Attorney charges:

22 COUNT ONE: 18 U.S.C. § 371

23 1. On or about between January 1996 and October 1998, both dates being
24 approximate and inclusive, in the Northern District of California, and elsewhere, the
25 defendant

26 MARK JAMES KNIGHTS

27 did knowingly and intentionally conspire with Steven Simoneau to commit offenses
28 against the United States, to wit, to damage and attempt to damage the property of an

SUPERSEDING INFORMATION

1 energy facility, and to cause and attempt to cause a significant interruption and
2 impairment of a function of an energy facility, in violation of Title 18, United States
3 Code, Section 1366(a); to damage and destroy commercial property by means of fire and
4 explosives in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(i); and to steal
5 property of the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

6 MANNER AND MEANS

7 2. It was part of the manner and means of the conspiracy that defendant Mark
8 Knights and co-conspirator Steven Simoneau possessed gasoline, chains, rebar, metal
9 cable, tools including bolt cutters, metal levers, and other materials with the intent to use
10 them against the energy facilities of Pacific Gas & Electric Company (hereinafter
11 "PG&E"), and to cause and attempt to cause a significant interruption and impairment of
12 the functions of PG&E involving the storage, transmission, and distribution of electricity
13 to consumers in the area of Napa, California.

14 3. It was further part of the manner and means of the conspiracy that defendant
15 Mark Knights and Steven Simoneau used fire to damage and disrupt electrical substations
16 and other energy facilities of PG&E.

17 4. It was further part of the manner and means of the conspiracy that defendant
18 Mark Knights and Steven Simoneau used fire and explosives to damage and destroy other
19 business property.

20 5. It was further part of the manner and means of the conspiracy that defendant
21 Mark Knights and Steven Simoneau burglarized the office of the United States
22 Department of Agriculture in Napa, California, to steal property belonging to the United
23 States.

24 OVERT ACTS

25 In furtherance of this conspiracy and to effect and accomplish the objects of it,
26 defendant Mark Knights and co-conspirator Steven Simoneau (hereinafter referred to as
27 "they") committed the following overt acts, among others:
28

1 6. On or about January 30, 1996, they cut the lock to the gate at PG&E's Pueblo
2 substation in Napa, California ("Napa"), and they tossed chains onto the substation bars,
3 causing a power outage.

4 7. On or about February 12, 1996, they detonated an explosive (a pipe bomb) to
5 blow up and destroy a Pacific Bell coin telephone and booth at 2601 Solano Avenue in
6 Napa.

7 8. On or about June 16, 1996, they detonated an explosive (a pipe bomb) to blow
8 up and destroy a Pacific Bell coin telephone unit at 1050 Freway Drive in Napa.

9 9. On or about September 3, 1996, they threw chains onto the transformers at
10 PG&E's Pueblo substation, causing a power outage.

11 10. On or about October 31, 1997, they threw pieces of chain onto PG&E's Pueblo
12 substation buss bars, causing a power outage.

13 11. On or about November 7, 1997, they opened a PG&E air switch on a pole west
14 of the Imola Street bridge, and opened a second PG&E switch on Franklin Avenue, in
15 Napa, causing power outages.

16 12. On or about November 11, 1997, they cut guy-wires to a PG&E transmission
17 pole within Tulachay Cemetery in Napa, causing a power outage.

18 13. On or about December 31, 1997, they cut a PG&E guy-wire on a power pole in
19 the 100 block of Riverside Street in Napa, causing a power outage.

20 14. On or about March 5, 1998, they opened a PG&E air switch on a utility pole
21 near the Pueblo substation on Big Ranch Road, Napa County, causing a power outage.

22 15. On or about May 23, 1998, they threw a metal cable across a PG&E line on
23 Green Valley Road near Wild Horse Canyon Road in Napa County, causing a power
24 outage.

25 16. On or about May 23, 1998, they used gasoline to ignite a fire intending to
26 destroy a PG&E electrical transformer in front of 1075 Golden Gate Avenue in Napa.

27 17. On or about May 24, 1998, they possessed numerous pieces of chain and
28 gasoline in a pick-up truck adjacent to a PG&E gas line located at Highway 29 and

1 Zinfandel Lane in Napa.

2 18. On or about May 27, 1998, they used gasoline to ignite a fire intending to
3 maliciously damage or destroy one or more commercial vehicles of Miller Distributing
4 Company in Napa.

5 19. On or about June 2, 1998, they drove in co-conspirator Steven Simoneau's
6 pickup truck to the area of Gateway Drive West and Devlin Road near the Napa County
7 airport, where they pried off the lock to a PG&E electrical control box and tampered with
8 the insulation panels.

9 20. On or about June 2, 1998, after breaking into the PG&E control box, they pried
10 off the lock to an adjacent Pacific Bell vault, believing the vault to be a facility of PG&E,
11 and used gasoline to ignite a fire inside the vault.

12 21. On or about June 3, 1998, they drove in co-conspirator Steven Simoneau's
13 pickup truck that contained flammable liquids, containers labeled Pyrodex black powder,
14 black electrical tape, a diagram of electric device, chains, cutting instruments, white tape,
15 pieces of wax, PG&E master keys, and destructive devices (a Molotov cocktail and
16 Pyrodex explosive powder).

17 22. On or about October 15, 1998, they forced entry into the office of the United
18 States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") at 1303 Jefferson Street in Napa, and stole
19 property belonging to the USDA, including keys to multiple government vehicles parked
20 in an adjacent lot.

21 23. On or about October 15, 1998, using the keys they had stolen in the burglary of
22 the USDA office, they stole a 1996 Jeep Cherokee owned by the USDA.

23 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

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SUPERSEDING INFORMATION

1 COUNT TWO: 18 U.S.C. § 844(i)

2 On or about June 2, 1998, in the Northern District of California, the defendant
3 MARK JAMES KNIGHTS
4 did maliciously damage personal property by means of fire, to wit, a telephone
5 communications vault of Pacific Bell in the area of Gateway Drive West and Devlin
6 Road, Napa, California, used in or in an activity affecting interstate commerce in
7 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(i).

8
9 COUNT THREE: 18 U.S.C. § 844(i)

10 On or about May 31, 1998, in the Northern District of California, the defendant
11 MARK JAMES KNIGHTS
12 did maliciously damage real property by means of an explosive (a pipe bomb), to wit, the
13 Napa Valley Economic Development Corporation building at 1091 Fifth Street, Napa,
14 California, used in or in an activity affecting interstate commerce, in violation of Title 18,
15 United States Code, Section 844(i).

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17 COUNT FOUR: 18 U.S.C. § 842(i)(1)

18 Between on or about May 31, 1998 and June 3, 1998, both dates being
19 approximate and inclusive, in the Northern District of California, the defendant
20 MARK JAMES KNIGHTS,
21 having previously been convicted of a felony crime punishable by a term of imprisonment
22 exceeding one year, did knowingly possess an explosive, to wit, detonation cord, which
23 had been shipped or transported in interstate commerce, in violation of Title 18, United
24 States Code, Section 842(i)(1).

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SUPERSEDING INFORMATION

1 COUNT FIVE: 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)

2 On or about June 3, 1998, in the Northern District of California, the defendant
3 MARK JAMES KNIGHTS,
4 having previously been convicted of a felony crime punishable by a term of imprisonment
5 exceeding one year, did knowingly possess ammunition, to wit, 173 rounds of M-60
6 machine gun ammunition, including 34 rounds of tracer ammunition; 34 rounds of .32
7 caliber ammunition; and 38 rounds of 9-millimeter ammunition, in violation of Title 18,
8 United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).
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10 COUNT SIX: 18 U.S.C. § 1361

11 On or about and between October 15, 1998 and November 19, 1998, and between
12 on or about November 29, 1998 and December 10, 1998, these being approximate and
13 inclusive, in the Northern District of California, the defendant

14 MARK JAMES KNIGHTS
15 did willfully injure and commit a depredation against property of the United States
16 Department of Agriculture, an agency of the United States, to wit, a 1996 Jeep Cherokee,
17 vehicle identification number 1J4FJ27S2TL201115, and the damage to such property
18 exceeded the sum of \$1,000, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1361.
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20 DAVID W. SHAPIRO
United States Attorney

21
22 Dated: 6/17/02


23 DOUGLAS WILSON
Chief, Criminal Division

24
25
26 (Approved as to form: 
27 AUSA GLBEVANJR
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SUPERSEDING INFORMATION